



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

---

*Federal Building  
55 Pleasant Street, Room 352  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

*603/225-1552*

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release  
January 27, 2004**

**Contact: Thomas P. Colantuono  
United States Attorney  
Mark A. Irish  
Clyde R.W. Garrigan  
Assistant U.S. Attorneys  
(603) 225-1552**

**FORMER LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS MAN  
SENTENCED IN COCAINE TRAFFICKING CONSPIRACY**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE:** United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, N.H. Department of Safety Assistant Commissioner Earl Sweeney, Manchester Police Chief John Jaskolka, and the Drug Enforcement Administration New England Field Division Special Agent in Charge Mark Trouville announced that César R. Pérez, age 25, formerly of Lawrence, MA was sentenced today in United States District Court in Concord.

Pérez had previously pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute five or more kilograms of cocaine and was sentenced today by Judge Steven McAuliffe to 70 months in prison to be followed by 5 years of supervised release by the U.S. Department of Probation. Pérez was one of nine defendants charged in an Indictment and Superseding Indictment returned by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Concord.

As of this date, Pérez and all of the defendants charged in the Indictment and Superseding Indictment, have been convicted - eight by pleas of guilty and one by a jury verdict of guilty. Seven of the nine defendants have been sentenced, and two of the defendants are pending sentence. A tenth defendant was prosecuted and convicted by the N.H. Attorney General's Office.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, "This case is the product of a two-year investigation of an organization which transported multi-kilogram quantities of cocaine from Lawrence, MA. to Manchester, NH, where the cocaine was "cut" for re-distribution in various communities in New Hampshire. Pérez was one of the organization's two or three transporters of the cocaine and was also responsible for collecting a portion of the organization's money proceeds from selling the cocaine in New Hampshire. The case included a 60 day federal wire intercept, months of physical surveillance conducted by all agencies involved, and various other investigative techniques. This was a state-wide cocaine distribution organization which was as difficult to penetrate as any drug trafficking organization this state has seen. The organization proved hard to penetrate because the organization took numerous measures to evade law enforcement. The organization, which was responsible for distributing at least 40 kilograms of cocaine in New Hampshire, was also one of the most far reaching that law enforcement has ever encountered in New Hampshire. The agencies involved in this case should be proud of their hard work and teamwork which was responsible for dismantling this organization."

The N.H. State Police Narcotics Investigative Unit, the Manchester, NH Police Department, and the Drug Enforcement Administration investigated this case. This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Clyde Garrigan and Mark Irish.